

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY: SPECIAL EDITION



Canadian universities are looking for answers to their current funding problems. Photo by Braden Dupuis

Council meets for the first time in decades

Dietrich Neu
@DietrichNeu

The voice of the University of Regina faculty got a little bit louder Wednesday.

The University Council, an advisory body made up of University of Regina students and faculty, met for the first time in several decades to vote on numerous issues stemming from the U of R's looming budget crunch.

The historic moment saw the council vote on eight motions in total, passing all but one. However, the motions were simply formal recommendations by the council – University President Vianne Timmons and the U of R board of governors will decide to what degree the council's decisions will be implemented.

The council moved to freeze hiring of all non-union administrative staff, create a university hiring committee to reduce the cost of university management, and create a three-year plan to restore the university's academic mission.

The only motion to fail asked for a suspension of all executive council meetings until the University Council had met first – meaning the executive council would continue to pass motions at separate meetings on behalf of the University Council.



U of R faculty and students gather for the first University Council meeting in 20 years. Photo by Dietrich Neu

"I think that this was an excellent meeting of council, and an example of collegial governance that is very positive," Timmons said to a cluster of reporters post-meeting. "Many universities have council meetings as part of their regular procedure, but the University of Regina has not. My sense is that there is a lot of anxiety on this campus ... we have had a lot of changes happen on the campus and what I heard today was a lot of concern from the faculty."

The council also passed motions to increase transparency regarding all university financial matters, halt structural changes pertaining to the faculty, create a fiscal "think tank," and create a budget committee of council.

U of R administration must now decide whether or not they are going to imple-

ment the changes that the council has suggested. The only motion guaranteed to come to fruition is the creation of the budget committee, which will make recommendations to the board of governors on financial decisions.

Timmons said that, despite concerns about administrative transparency, she will "absolutely" make the rationale behind any decisions regarding the council's motions known.

"I will make everything public," she said.

The meeting Wednesday had a massive turn out. Almost every seat in the university's largest auditorium was filled – and several non-council spectators had to be turned away after the room quickly filled. Media was allowed to view the council, but was banned from recording the meet-

ing to ensure "that all members are comfortable bringing forth their concerns," said Timmons, who chaired the meeting.

Student representation on the council was markedly low compared to meetings in the past. Out of a potential 50 seats, U of R students sat on only eleven voting positions. University of Regina Students' Union President Nathan Sgrazzutti said that student under-representation on the council will not happen again.

"This time we didn't get our 10 per cent representation," he said. "I can guarantee you that next time we will."

Since 1976, the University Council has met rarely – delegating most of its responsibilities to the executive council. Despite that, Timmons said she is looking to chair another meeting this term if possible.

Universities look for answers to funding woes

Braden Dupuis
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While there's been plenty of talk surrounding the University of Regina's academic program review as of late, the U of R isn't the only Canadian school looking for funding solutions.

So far both Wilfred Laurier University and the University of Guelph have undertaken similar program reviews in an attempt to identify successful programs.

The strategy, known as program prioritization, is Darwinian in nature – the strongest programs get funding, while the weakest suffer cutbacks.

“We have declining public funding at the moment, so universities are looking elsewhere,” said David Robinson, associate executive director for the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

“They're going to the private sector, and the private sector tends to want to put its money only in certain kinds of programs - business administration and science programs. You don't get a lot of donations for Latin American studies or Canadian history. Those aren't the sexy programs.”

The lack of public funding for post-secondary schools means a large reliance on private contracts and donations, which has led to increased corporate influence on administrative decision-making, according to Robinson.

And corporations, driven by profit as they tend to be, usually want their money to go towards programs that are relevant to their financial interests, he added.

This is where the potential for future problems develop.

“I have no problems with the principle of program prioritization. The question becomes what are the criteria that you use to prioritize the programs?” said Richard Kleer, dean of the faculty of arts at the U of R.

“If you make the priority creating jobs for students, then I have a problem with the process.”

Kleer said he believes the job of a university should be “to allow students to discover more about the world and to think critically about that place before they head out and find a job for themselves.”

The importance of a broad understanding of the world in critical decision mak-

ing cannot be understated, Kleer said. “I spend my life as a historian looking at how societies make bad choices because not enough of their members understand the choices that they're making,” he said. “You get a lot of very foolish decisions, I think, when people aren't knowledgeable about their society as a whole.”

In Saskatchewan, where resource development is driving the demand for skilled workers, the STEM degrees – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – are in high demand.

“There's certainly a lot of competition right now for the best and brightest, that would be the way that I would describe it,” said Lisa Poissant, strategic staffing lead for The Mosaic Company in Regina.

Both the U of R and the University of Saskatchewan are promoting the STEM degrees at a time when skilled workers are very much in need.

“They're turning out qualified candidates that meet the needs,” Poissant said.

“It's a good time to be in some of those technical programs because there's lots of demand, but ... you still need to be bright and smart and motivated and ambitious in

order to do well.” While the importance of technical expertise in present-day Saskatchewan can't be denied, Robinson believes society would be better served by individuals with a balanced education.

“Certainly we're seeing now the importance of understanding how economic production affects things like the environment, how it affects things like human health and human well being ... those require more of a humanistic approach,” he said

“I would certainly like to have scientists and engineers and mathematicians who have a broad understanding of history, of society, of the environment and so on.”

What it comes down to is a question of priorities.

“Do we think that funding post-secondary education is important?” Davidson asked.

“If it is, governments can find funding. They can find funding for all kinds of things, and so I think it's really a question of political will at this point.”

#UniversityCouncil Tweets



University of Regina students took to Twitter after the media was banned from recording the University Council meeting. Photo by Arielle Zerr

Arielle Zerr
@arielle_zerr

The Education Auditorium was a busy venue on the afternoon of March 6 when the University Council met for the first time in over 20 years.

As the venue filled up with faculty, administrators, students and the public, Regina news outlets were setting up their video cameras to record their segments for the nightly news. However, the media would ultimately be told they were not allowed to record the meeting.

University of Regina professor Patricia Elliott moved a motion to allow journalists to record the meeting but the motion was defeated.

But despite the ban on recording devices, Twitter came alive.

Under the hashtag “#UniversityCouncil,” some attendees took to the social media outlet to summarize the meeting's motions and opinions.

Paula Krasiun-Winsel, a University of Regina psychology student unable to attend the meeting, was expecting the meeting to be in the news so she could receive the information after work. After reading on Twitter that media recording wouldn't be allowed she was frustrated.

“Considering that transparency is a huge issue with this whole (academic program review) by not having a media presence and accessibility... I just thought

that was kind of a backhanded move (to) keep information away from people,” she said.

So for Krasiun-Winsel, Twitter became the only way she could hear what came out of the meeting.

“The question then becomes, is it a true public meeting? And I don't know if it was.”

- Vanessa Brown

“I'd say I got a pretty good picture of what was going on from the people who were tweeting. They did a really good job saying who was speaking and what the motions were and the amendments were,” she said.

Vanessa Brown, a reporter for the *Regina Leader-Post*, wasn't surprised her recorder was prohibited in the meeting because she had been told prior that it wouldn't be allowed. However, she did have reservations about media restrictions in public meetings.

“It's always concerning when controls are placed on the media during public meetings. We record for the purpose of accuracy so we don't get it wrong. So the question then becomes, is it a true public meeting? And I don't know if it was.”

Brown decided not to tweet during the meeting after President Timmons asked attendees to use discretion with social media, however, in hindsight Brown said she would have decided differently. “If it's a public meeting we need to be able to report on everything said. Social media's exploded and I've noticed especially in Regina as a city hall reporter (the public) like it when you live tweet meetings. They want to engage... So I think there's a vested interest in how an English major's professor feels. I think there's definitely a value in giving them that instant information.”

Journalism student Kristen McEwen did decide to live tweet the event and because of her tweets McEwen picked up new followers among people who were following her summary of the University Council events.

“The fact that I was hashtagging “#UniversityCouncil,” people were actually



Students want voices heard during time of cuts



U of R Students' Union president, Nathan Sgrazzutti, speaks to a board member before the University Council meeting begins. Photo by Lauren Golosky

Lauren Golosky
@laurengolosky

Universities across North America are going through turbulence - Saskatchewan's are no exception.

Both universities are currently facing deficits. The University of Saskatchewan is projecting a deficit of \$44.5 million, while the University of Regina is facing a three per cent cut across all departments.

Each university is reacting to these budgetary challenges differently. The U of S is implementing TransformUS, a prioritization program that includes two task-forces that will review academic program-

ming and support services. The budget cutting program is hoping to save the U of S \$20-\$25 million dollars annually.

As the universities are now challenged to cut their budgets, some student groups are concerned their interests are getting lost in the business side of post-secondary education. At the U of S, the TransformUS task forces include three students. Students' Union president Jared Brown is content that the university allowed some student membership on the task forces.

“I don't think the university would have allowed us to have 51 per cent of the members,” he said. “I think we understand that, but would I have liked more? Abso-

lutely. But I am happy we do have people on the task forces.”

However, students at the U of R were less pleased with student representation at the University Council meeting on March 6. Bart Soroka, the U of R Students' Union LGBTQ director, was disappointed they were only able to fill some of the spots mandated for student representation on the council.

“The administration was actually supposed to do council elections every year in the fall and they never did them so we actually ended up coming into the council meeting with five members instead of 50, which we were supposed to have,” he ex-

School of Journalism 33rd Annual James M. Minifie Lecture

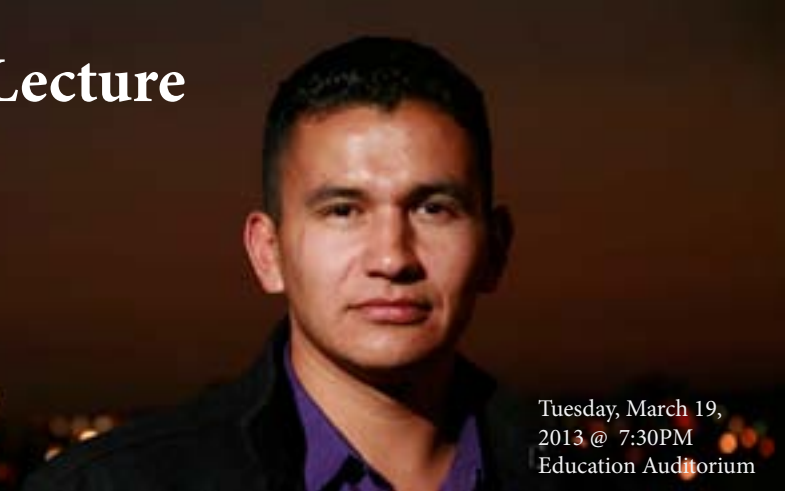
WAB KINEW

IDEALS ONCE MORE

How social media, social movements and Indigenous people urge us towards a new ethics of journalism



University
of Regina



Tuesday, March 19,
2013 @ 7:30PM
Education Auditorium

English department braces for sessional cuts



Sonia Stanger, a third-year English student, is concerned about cuts to sessional positions in her department. Photo by Eric Bell

Eric Bell
@RicoInRegina

The department of English at the University of Regina is feeling the sting of cuts made to the faculty of arts, finding its funding for sessional instructors drastically reduced compared to previous years. Richard Kleer, dean of arts, says that sessional cuts are being felt across the board, not just within the English depart-

ment. “We took a hard look at every department and tried to figure out the least that they could get by with and still do well by their students, and we reduced accordingly,” said Kleer. “The budget advisory committee decided to build more for a longer term future. They figured we needed to cut back anyways, and the cuts that do the least harm to us in the long run are in the sessionals area.” Third-year English student Sonia

Stanger disagrees, saying that cutting sessionals in her department limits the classes available to English majors. “When we’re seeing these drastic cuts, we’re looking at where normally the English department would have 25 sessionals, we’re looking at four for the entirety of next year,” said Stanger. “So, it doesn’t take a lot of math to see how crippling that would be in terms of introductory teaching capacity. What that means is that some of the tenured profs have to take on heavier load in terms of introductory courses, which really cripples the program as a whole, because then majors are left with fewer class choices, and class sizes start to grow exponentially.” Stanger says she is disappointed by the cuts, and wishes that students in other faculties would realize how cutting sessionals affects them. “There are certainly many students across the university who don’t think the cuts are affecting them, who are in business or engineering programs that have a lot more secure funding,” said Stanger. “But they’re going to see how it affects them when we’re starting to see first-year students who can’t get into a class that every degree program requires. Every degree requires English 100, and I think it

is going to be quite a rude awakening for some students at the university who didn’t consider how cuts to the arts affect the university as a whole.” Nicholas Ruddick, English department head, agrees, saying that students might have a hard time getting into English 100 classes. “So far, I’ve cancelled five sections of English 100 and 110 in the fall, and plan to cancel five more sections in the winter,” Ruddick said. “This will mean there is a lot more pressure on those sections, and some students won’t be able to get English 100 when they want to.” Ruddick explained that while he wants to offer as many English 100 classes as possible, he won’t divert his entire faculty to teaching the course, and that it is up to the university to solve the problem. “English 100 is a course we have put on for the rest of the university,” said Ruddick. “If they don’t give us the funds to put it on, we don’t put it on. Many people think departments have control over their own budgets. They don’t. Control of the budget is at the faculty level, not the department level. The ball is in the university’s court.”

Science students and faculty concerned about budget



Budget costs could affect the faculty of science’s ability to provide lab experience to students. Photo by Julia Dima

Julia Dima
@juliavdima

Last year’s provincial budget saw a change to the University of Regina’s overall faculty operating budget, requiring all faculties to find three per cent within their budget operations to reduce costs. All faculties were affected. In the faculty of science, this round of cuts was manageable, but with the upcoming budget, future cuts are a concern. “The university asked the government for a five per cent increase last year, and the government said, ‘no we can’t do that,

we’re giving you two per cent,” Daniel Gagnon, dean of science said. “That is where the three per cent comes from. The proposed budget needed five per cent, but we only got two per cent and had to find the three per cent in our budget.” Last year, Gagnon axed three empty positions to cut the three per cent, although the department was able to give tenure track to three professors. This year, he’s chosen not to fill two retired positions to help deal with the cuts. However, he says this is a temporary response to the cuts, and cannot go on longer than a few years, and this is a problem. “I can’t take the cut on salaries, those

are blocked. I can only cut on 10 per cent of my ... operating budget: teaching assistants, sessionals, lab materials, toxic materials disposal (which can’t be cut).” Mark Brigham, head of the biology department, has also thought about how budget cuts may affect these necessary operational costs. “As of this moment, we simply cannot run our practical lab program without TA’s. I think (because of budget cuts) that we are going to have a harder time hiring TA’s, and if that happens, our only option is to offer less lab experience,” he said. “Will that reduce the quality of education? Absolutely. Will it sink to a level where

students shouldn’t take the degree? No. They won’t get as much experience as in the past. I don’t want that, but if I have reduced money, it is going to come to that.” Science undergraduate students like Mhmoud Essalah are concerned about what could happen to their education if budget cuts harmed TA’s. “If they cut TA’s – the labs are already too big for one guy, so I actually think they need to double that to properly run the lab. A science class without a lab is really point,” he said. “They are working towards removing labs if they cut TA’s, the equipment is getting old. The labs are an essential component to understanding these things ... I don’t know if funding is the problem, but it’s just smart management of what we have.” Another student, Brendan Warner, said he feels labs are underfunded already. “My biochemistry 220 lab instructor pretty much said flat out that he didn’t have the money in his budget for the expensive enzyme for the experiment, so we just talked during that lab.”

Gagnon says he’s not worried about losing TA’s, as they are essential to the faculty. However, if there are major cuts in this month’s provincial budget, that may change. “Maybe if this trend continues, if we don’t make some of the choices we need to make and continue to spread cuts on everybody, it won’t be good. But these across-the-board cuts are a reaction for us to do (something) right now, to give us time to prepare and decide what we need to cut. Perhaps the economy goes well ... then maybe it won’t be so tight in the following year. I’m hoping for that.”

Theatre: Students suffering from budget cuts



Students working behind the scenes have also been affected by the cuts to the theatre department. Photo by Maureen Mugerwa

Maureen Mugerwa
@MsMugz

Theatre students at the University of Regina are not happy with the cuts to the theatre department. “Because of the cuts we don’t have as many classes, which we need for our degree. They’ve opened all of our classes so that anyone can be in them,” said Hayley Taylor, a fourth-year theatre student. The 400-level acting classes do not require prerequisites and fourth-year students who are paired with first-year

students have to teach them the basics. “So instead of moving forward they’re going backwards,” said Taylor. The university budget calls for three per cent cuts across the board. According to a report submitted by the faculty of fine arts at the March 6 University Council meeting, this cut will be particularly hard on an already-struggling theatre department, despite assurances of support from university president Vianne Timmons. “Historically the theatre department has been at the centre of the arts community—our outreach has been extensive

and exemplary,” according to the fine arts report. A lot of the activity within the theatre department has been reduced because of the budget. Laura, a second-year acting student who was uncomfortable giving her last name, has also been affected by these cuts. “I’m finding that I really have to catch up in learning what others in their fourth year have already been taught in order to get through the class,” she said. The 400-level acting class was the only available class which, for Laura, was “stressful not knowing as much as the fourth-years and going into that with them.” “The essence of what we do, the business of training artists, is profoundly challenged,” read the information package. The fine arts report stated, “our capacity to hire student assistants is similarly curtailed” as they will now lose many hours in the “first three per cent cut.” Without people around to help in the different positions such as costume construction, dressing, prop-making, set design, front of house duties and publicity, they are not able to do what is necessary to produce their shows, according to the report. If the theatre department is to lose its activities because of the budget, it will not

Theatre Department Cuts

- Can only offer two shows per year instead of four
- No longer offered as a Bachelor of Fine Arts
- All sessional professors have been cut
- The public profile of the department has dropped drastically
- 150 hours for student assistants has been cut

Visual arts: The invisible arts



Third-year visual arts student Jihyun Choi works on her latest painting. Photo by Megan Narsing

Megan Narsing
@Spider_Meg

The visual arts faculty is slowly become the invisible arts. With more budget cuts, lack of support for more instructors and little to no funding for graduate work, visual arts students like Jen SK are feeling the repercussions. “I’m unable to register for classes because we don’t have anyone just yet to fill the positions,” said SK, a ceramics and sculpture major. “There are two profs who are going on sabbatical and until they find a replacement I’m kind of up in the air for classes.” The university’s three per cent budget cut shakes down to a 10 per cent base cut for visual arts, along with a 20 per cent

loss of student assistants and a complete loss of sessional lecturers, according to a report prepared by the faculty of fine arts for the March 6 University Council meeting. “One of the number one ways people share culture is through art,” SK said. She disagreed that the arts department shouldn’t be considered an important field. Despite the cuts, the program retains some strong supporters in the community. The Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery is one of them. The Mackenzie Art gallery used to be a part of the University of Regina. In 1990 it separated from the school and became the separate entity it is today. However, it hasn’t forgotten about visual arts students

and its relationship with the university. “We have a long standing tradition of having the bachelors of fine arts and bachelors of media arts graduating exhibits hosted here at the gallery,” said Jeremy Morgan, the executive director for the gallery. With the latest budget cut it may not be possible for SK to continue her path here, she said. “I chose Regina because the University of Saskatchewan basically has the same problem we are now running into here. I’m graduating next year. I don’t know what I’m going to do,” SK said.

Other Fine Arts Cuts

Film Department

- The Film Department’s budget has been cut close to 50 per cent over the last decade
- All sessional professors have been cut
- Classes are operating at full capacity with no alternative courses available for students
- Lost student assistants

Music Department

- Lost 10 per cent of base budget
- Lost 24 per cent of student assistant budget
- Lost 17 per cent of ensemble budget
- The Fine Arts Concert Series which showcases student talent has been cut
- Sessional allotment has been reduced
- Course offerings have been reduced

Visual Arts Department

- All sessionals have been cut
- Loss of 10 per cent of their base budget
- Loss of 20 per cent of student assistants
- Significant loss of funding for all graduate projects

A campus in crisis:

then and now

Kristen McEwen
@KristenMcEwen

History is appearing to repeat itself as the University of Regina has recently reached a point of crisis, forcing a dormant University Council to meet on March 6.

Parallels can be drawn between what is currently happening at the university and what happened in the late 1960s and early 1970s, according to alumnus and former *Carillon* editor-in-chief Don Kossick.

“When we were organizing in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, there was kind of a similar situation happening where the university was being corporatized,” Kossick said. “We used to actually call this, when Ross Thatcher was the premier of the province, the ‘University of Sas-Thatcher-wan’ because he would try and impose his corporate view of development on the university.”

Kossick was a student at the Regina campus from 1964 to 1968, which was then part of the University of Saskatchewan. In 1967, Premier Ross Thatcher attempted to gain control of the university budget.

The students, faculty members and employees of both the Regina and Saskatoon campuses created a campaign to prevent this from happening. Kossick said he and a group of others would hold teach-ins to inform students about campus issues. Sometimes these meetings would take place in the pit located in the middle of the Administration/ Humanities building, where students would pack the area to listen.

“I was thinking about parallels (to today). I think the university community has to talk to the wider community,” Kossick said.

“And we did a lot of that, we used to put out the *Carillon*. That would be distributed to every town in the province because people who are taxpayers kind of look at that and go, ‘Oh, university’s costing us so much money.’ We kind of buy the line that the investment is not worth the outtake without realizing what the university does for a community, for their children and how it keeps a province and a culture alive.”

Don Mitchell - former Student Union president, *Carillon* editor-in-

chief and mayor of Moose Jaw, said the reason why students appear to be disengaged toward issues on campus is because many students lead busy lives, balancing part-time jobs on top of their course load.

He also said technology has allowed students to be aware of issues without having to physically be at the location.

Kay Niedermayer is on the board of directors for the Regina Public Interest Research Group and recently helped organize Israeli Apartheid Week. As a student activist, she said trying to get students interested in issues can sometimes be disheartening.

“But universities are where we learn to identify and criticize injustice and construct creative strategies for change,” she said. “For this reason, student activism has defined my time at this campus, for better and for worse. But I must admit that without the community of active students and professors that I am now grateful to call friends, I doubt that I would have stayed in Saskatchewan to finish my degree.”

Kossick said people need to be engaged to ask questions about what’s happening to both universities.

In the middle of a provincial boom, the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan are in crisis and have some of the highest tuitions in the country, he said.

“I think this is off the table now, no one is talking about tuitions, they’re always talking about what it takes to go to university,” Kossick said. “It’s all about who’s going to get cut back, how many courses are going to get cut back. I think (money’s) being diverted to a place that doesn’t serve the purpose, and the vision and principle of what a university should be.”

He added that the movement in the ‘60s and early ‘70s focused on building up the liberal arts.

“I think (the University of Regina) young faculty is cool and some of the older faculty as well,” Kossick said. “(If you have) the liberal arts community that served everybody alongside the younger faculty alongside a really vibrant student movement, I think you could make some good change.”

Excerpts from editions of the *Carillon* from 1968 and 1976 show how invested the newspaper, students and faculty were in the future of the university. Photos courtesy of the *Carillon*

Orientation '76

Who Runs the University

Everyone, including Dean of Commerce. The reports to him except for the Registrar who is under the Library, and Ancillary Services Office which is under the Registrar. Each department is responsible for its own budget. Faculty setting all matters, but usually restricts itself to budget approvals. Initial and reallocations are the responsibility of the BOG.

Tuition makes up approximately 14% and outside money (e.g. research grants) the rest. The Universities Commission has been appointed to investigate the situation of both U of R. Theoretically it has authority on all matters, but usually restricts itself to budget approvals. Initial and reallocations are the responsibility of the BOG.

Meeting of the Faculty of Business Administration, Friday, November 30, 1967

Meeting of the Faculty of Business Administration

University of Regina Library

Student power: right to ask real questions



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University of Regina
School of Journalism



Taking care of business



Fourth-year marketing major Sarah Novak. Photo Shinoah Young

Shinoah Young
@ShinoahKihew

Although enrolment for business students remains at capacity, the faculty of business administration is still facing the same three per cent cuts that the rest of the university is. Meanwhile, business students pay the highest tuition per credit hour.

“Our students pay more to be sitting next to a student in the exact same class who’s paying \$90 less than them for that class,” said business faculty advisor Lindsay Eastman.

This past year enrolment at the Paul J. Hill School of Business was at a slight decrease. In spite of this decline, student populations in previous years have

steadily risen.

“We’re not facing a more luxurious or extravagant budget than anywhere else in the university. It’s been tight, there are no extra funds to work with,” said Eastman. “We’ve had very strict budget cuts just like the rest of the university,” he explained.

“We are always trying to defend our position with the budget and why we shouldn’t have further decreases. The whole university is really feeling it, there’s a climate of fear with all of the administration adjustments,” said Eastman.

“The most important thing is to hire an adequate number of faculty so we can do adequate class scheduling to ensure that there are enough seats for available students for the course progression,” said

Eastman.

Professor Ernest Johnson’s third year management information system classes are at full capacity.

“For example I started teaching a classroom of 35 and now that same class is at 68. The fire marshal says we can only have 68 students per class but if 100 was permissible we would have gone for 100,” said Johnson.

“It has nothing to do with the external economy,” added Bill Bonner.” If we have more students and don’t get more resources, then how does that work when there are a limited number of staff teaching more and more students?”

“Our class sizes are huge and our resources are relatively limited and have been for some time and we’ve lived with that but there’s a point beyond which we just can’t function,” said the management information systems professor.

Fourth-year marketing student Sarah Novak is keen on the versatility of her business administration degree.

“I think it’s applicable to any area in the world. Any single organization or company can’t run without business people and I think it’s cool how business can apply to any area in life and you learn a lot about current events and stuff that’s going on around the world, too,” said Novak.

“I didn’t know why I wanted to go into business when I first came to school but once I came here I’m glad that I did because I feel like I could basically get a job in any company,” said Novak.

Business Administrator Devon Anderson says the university is dependent

upon 70 per cent of its funding from government. This dictates what an institution can and can’t do.

“We’re supposed to be a booming province and yet we’ve had to look at where we could cut back, like where’s the money? Why don’t we have money?” said Anderson.

“We’ve had to cut back our sessional budget quite a bit,” said Anderson, even though business class sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round at maximum capacity.

The six area groups of specialization are: human resources/organizational behaviour, marketing, accounting, finance, entrepreneurship and international business.

“Our business school has always felt that the liberal arts side of it is a really important aspect for our students,” said Anderson. “We’re still committed to that liberal arts portion, we encourage our students to understand the importance of those other classes.”

“I can understand when faculties are facing cuts or feeling threatened, it’s just really human nature to sort of look around and get defensive but I think we are all in this together and we want what’s best for our university and for our students so let’s look at the university as a whole and why can’t we get adequate funding for all of our programs? They’re all important right?” said Anderson.

“We all try to work together and it is a really liberal university strongly influenced by social sciences and humanities,” said Eastman.

Whatcha say?

What are your thoughts on the U of R’s current financial standing ?

“I think it’s unfortunate because it’s leading to cuts in programs and stuff so hopefully they can find cuts from somewhere to make it work that way.”

Jeff Swann

“It seems to be they are starting to axe sessional support and TA support instead of looking into what administrators are making. I don’t see why the classrooms have to suffer as a first course of action as opposed to looking at alternatives.”

Emily Gardner

“I know in the science faculty, they’ve taken a lot of hits. Being a TA and teaching a lot of labs, I’m learning a lot of the labs are cutting a lot of the labs like food microbiology was considered being cut, the lab for that class.”

Jaydon Tsui

Not the first to restructure

Penny Smoke
@Onecent4u

As the University of Regina deals with a number of program cuts there is a call for transparency from student council in the face of future deficits.

The university’s issues resemble recent changes at the First Nations University of Canada.

In 2010 the federal and provincial government cut its funding to FNUniv, causing the university to implement a number of administrative changes including faculty amalgamation and administra-

tive job loss. In light of the cuts, FNUniv created a task force to find solutions on how to meet the requirements of the federal and provincial government’s funding standards and a four-year memorandum of understanding was signed that would ensure balanced budgets. It is in effect until March 2014.

As part of the process, FNUniv reduced its faculties from eight to two, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, which include Indigenous Education, Indian Social Work, Business and Public Administration and Health Science, and the Department of Professional programs which

includes English, Indigenous Health studies, Indian Communications, arts, Indian fine arts and Indian art history, Indian language, linguistics, Indigenous studies, environmental health and science and resource and environmental studies.

Former acting president Shauneen Pete, who is currently in Faculty of Education at the U of R but was acting FNUniv president at the time of the changes, explained the goal of restructuring.

“First Nations University of Canada has had a long tradition of serving First Nations and other populations, very effectively in the delivering of intercultural

education and it is essential that work continues at the core of that mandate. It was meant to provide an opportunity for people to embrace that empowerment and transform our communities,” said Pete.

There have been rumours that FNUniv is thinking of now re-expanding the number of faculties to four, however university representatives did not respond to requests for interviews by press time. With the memorandum of understanding set to expire in 2014 more changes may be in the air for FNUniv sooner rather than later.

U of R programs face possible changes

Chelan Skulski
@ChelanSki

UR International is a program at the University of Regina that could be affected by motions recommended at the university council meeting which took place on March 6.

During the first council meeting in two decades, a motion passed recommending hiring and salary increase freezes to administrative staff at the U of R. This motion could potentially affect the staff available for programs at the school, such as UR International.

As of fall 2011 there were 1,253 international students studying at the U of R, paying nearly three times as much as Canadian students for their education. For international students, who make up 20 per cent of the student population, international programs are critical to their academic success.

UR International is a program at the U of R dedicated to recruiting, assisting, and retaining international students and professors. UR International is divided into three departments; Student Services and Study Abroad, International Relations and Partnerships and International Admissions and Recruitment. Twenty-one staff members are employed among the three departments.

International Admissions and Recruit-

ment selects students to study at the U of R from countries around the world. Once students are accepted, programs are available to orient them into the post secondary community.

"We provide all immigration services; so students wanting to renew their study permits, off campus work permits, VISAs, we do very personalized, hands on, services for students ... and of course our Global Learning Centre," said Melissa Berwald, manager at student services and study abroad.

The Global Learning Centre, launched in 2010, has been a successful program for UR International. The centre provides one-on-one English learning conversation, group conversations, and a variety of workshops and classes. GLC also provides free tutorials to help international students succeed in English 100. The program is so popular that the GLC coaches are booked until April.

Arturo Segura came to the University of Regina as an ESL student from Mexico in 2007 and now works as an international relations and partnerships specialist.

Segura understands how the program can make a big difference for international students.

"Right now we have 60 students here from Brazil and they arrive here in January. You can imagine what they are going through right now. They came from



Arturo Segura in the International Relations and Partnerships office of UR International. Photo by Chelan Skulski

tropical weather and they just came to minus 40. Of course we have kids that are homesick and cannot adapt, but most of them now are doing fine," Segura said.

Richard Vengroff, political science professor at Kennesaw State University, believes programs for immigrants at the community level are needed. Vengroff presented a lecture on the implementation of immigration policy in Canada and the United States at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy on March 6.

"The role of immigration policy is integration, whether you're looking at eco-

nomics, cultural issues, social issues or graphic issues, integration is key and central to all of those. Without integration people might come for jobs, great, but they might not stay," he said.

"People don't become integrated into Saskatchewan because of Ottawa, these are things that happen at the local level when they are interacting with real people."

As the U of R attempts to balance budgets, international students will wait to see how their services, and academic futures, will be affected.

Up to 500 families on university daycare waiting list



Sheila Pelletier admires a handiwork made by children at Emerald Park Childcare where many university students take their children before driving back to school. Photo by Iryn Tushabe

Iryn Tushabe
@wordswearer

Academic programs are not the only part of campus suffering from a lack of resources.

The waiting list at the University of Regina's daycare facilities is so long that most students won't even get in before they graduate.

"Currently our waiting list is 300 to 500 families, which may have more than one child," said Sheila Pelletier, executive director of Oasis Childcare, one of the two daycares operating on campus.

Her daycare, which is licensed for children between 18 months and 12 years of age has only 45 childcare spaces available for students that attend the U of R and First Nations University of Canada, as well as staff and faculty members working at both campuses. They get funding both from the university and the Students' Union.

Oasis and Wascana Childcare Co-ops share a building they lease from the university. Wascana, which only takes children from 18 months to five years is also licensed for 45 spaces and has a wait-

ing list that's just as long.

Back in 2008, Pelletier put in a proposal to the Ministry of Education to expand her daycare facility and it was approved.

However, Pelletier said she couldn't find a space on campus to build the new daycare in time.

"There wasn't enough time to wait around for a physical space to open up on campus because we had a timeline. I got the call in July of 2008 and had to have my doors open by March 2009 so to wait for a physical space to open up on campus and then start building from ground up would

have been too rushed a job," she said.

Pelletier did not want to forfeit the grant so she used the funds to build another daycare in Emerald park, nine kilometres east of Regina.

The Emerald Park Childcare filled all its 90 spots within a year with children from six weeks to 18 months. Many of its clientele are university students. And for good reason.

"When the student's child is 18 months I put them in Oasis childcare on campus - so they have priority on the wait list That's how our policies work. If you come in here we'll get you in there and you have to wait it out but you'll get in quicker so they come in here, they do the drive," said Pelletier.

While some students have been waiting close to five years for a childcare spot, others are more lucky.

Second-year business administration student Rebekah Hove put her son on the waiting list when he was 8 months and waited only 18 months before he was accepted in one of the university daycares.

While she waited for a spot to open up for her son, Hove had him in a daycare in the city's north end.

Hove was excited when she got the call. "I'm now saving at least \$150 bucks on driving back and forth to the north end and I'm also not having to wake up at 5:40 AM everyday to get to school on time," she said.